

Great grandmother Ann Benson Mather's  
diary + a letter gives to her  
husband

Robert Mather

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M. 12/4

Anno Domini 1802.

October 6

I see the vanity of all earthly things, and resolve, the Lord assisting, to give myself up entirely into his hands; but feel I want that broken & contrite heart which God will not despise. May the Lord enable me to seek him with my whole heart.

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> Although I have been much busied this day with temporal concerns, yet did snatch a few moments for private prayer; Oh, that I could come to him just as I am with all my sins and cast myself at his feet, <sup>but</sup> I feel my <sup>heart</sup> is hardened by sin and unbelief.

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> I have this day given way too much to lightness of spirit, omitted private prayer in the forenoon, in the afternoon, I went out to approach a throne of grace, but found my mind dull and insensible. when shall I feel the burden of sin too heavy to be borne?

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> This morning, I felt my mind much cast down on account of having been so long seeking the Lord, and still feeling myself at so great a distance as ever.



I have endeavored to spend as much time  
as I could spare in private, and this evening  
feel a little encouraged to hope for mercy.  
O Lord make me truly in earnest for  
the Kingdom of God.

Oct<sup>th</sup> 11 I thank God I have felt much drawn  
out in prayer throughout this day.

Oct 12. I have this day been much tempted  
to fear lest I should continue to live at this  
poor dying rate, and at last be found at the  
left hand of God. O Lord do give me that  
sorrow for sin & hatred to it that will make  
me miserable, till I find happiness in thee.

Oct 16 The things of time & sense have this  
day taken up too much of my time and at-  
tention; I want to feel the importance of  
eternal things. I see, but cannot feel.

Oct 25 I have throughout this day frequently  
felt my mind drawn out in prayer,  
but still feel a fear lest I should live & die  
without God pardoning love. I bow for of Da-  
vid have in mercy oh me.

Oct<sup>th</sup> 31 I am this evening confined with my sis-  
ter Isabella who was taken ill on Friday  
night after we came home from

the clasp with violent spasms in her stomach.  
May the Lord sanctify this affliction.

Nov<sup>r</sup> 26 my Sister has had a return of  
of her disorder, attended with violent  
Hysteric fits, she has been speechless  
near twenty four hours; On Saturday  
she was drenched, & continued very ill  
till Sunday afternoon when she lay in a  
state of insensibility two hours; when  
finding that all human help failed,  
my Father, Mother, and myself kneeling  
by her bedside, besought the Lord with  
many tears that he would come, and heal  
her. The Lord graciously heard us in our  
extreme distress. She recovered from  
that hour, and is now to all appearance  
as well as before. God forbid that thy  
chastisements, & mercies should be in  
vain.

Sunday Jan<sup>r</sup> 29 This evening was prevented  
from going to the Chapel, but spent most  
of the time in prayer; my mind was exceed-  
ingly distressed. I make me now determine  
if I perish to perish going out for God.

Feb 22 Since I have wrote last my mind  
has been much unsettled, my Sister having  
frequent returns of her disorder, &



my Mother having been very ill. —

April 5 What reason have I to be thankful  
but that I am yet out of hell.

Most gracious God, constrain me to seek  
thy face with my whole heart. —

April 25 I have for the last fortnight  
been confined with a bad fever. I was  
much distressed in mind during my afflic-  
tion. Mrs P. has been kind in visiting me,  
& encouraging me to hope in the mercy of  
God. —  
I am resolved by the grace of God to de-  
vote my spared life to his service. —

Sept 13 Since I last wrote I have been  
much exercised, in our removal to Sun St.  
& my Mother's affliction. I fear I have lost  
ground, have lately felt a great backwardness  
to pray, a great indifference to every good.  
I have this day received the Lords Supper.  
I feel him with him blest before the Lord. —  
Sun Dec 14

During the last week I have given  
way to fretfulness & discontent, I have often  
spoke unguardedly with my lips.  
Often I am aware that I have so little time  
for meditation & prayer. —  
I want a deep sense of my lost estate.

th give me Lord, myself to feel!  
My total misery reveal;

th give me Lord, I still wd say,  
A heart to moun, an heart to pray  
My business this, my only care,  
My life, my every breath be prayer

And <sup>th</sup> You I have this afternoon been to the  
covenant, - it was a solemn opportunity, -  
but I was quite unaffected & insensible  
all the time. May the Lord of his infinite  
mercy forgive me.

Jan. 17. I have this evening heard my  
 Leathen from Ps: 116. vers on the occasion  
 of Miss Greenwood's death: there was a love  
 oftentimes. I was wandering most part of  
 the time. How do I abuse my private eyes.  
 When shall I awake from this lethargy.  
 How ought I to thank God for his <sup>long</sup> <sup>kind</sup> <sup>mercy</sup>.  
 Jan. 18. Another

I am <sup>4</sup>  
28 Another year of this year  
has elapsed! Where am I? still living at  
this poor dying rate! Having received both  
myself & my friends. My mind is insen-  
sible to all good, yet tempted to disbelieve  
all good.  
Lord forgive me, make me will in



to be saved in thine own way  
and can I yet delay,  
My little all to give,  
To tear my soul from earth away,  
For Jesus to receive. —

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March 25 Since I last wrote my mind has  
been much exercised; O that my trials  
might drive me to flee for refuge to the  
hope set before me. —

April 3 I am very unhappy, Lord help  
me to pray, my soul is disquieted  
within me, my sins stare me in the  
face. Lord hast thou cast me off? is thy  
mercy clean gone for ever?  
I acknowledge thy justice, but in the  
midst of deserved wrath, we can be thy  
darling attribute is mercy. —

May 27 These last six weeks I have been  
in a miserable state lying without hope,  
without God in the world. The Lord has gra-  
ciously & repeatedly called me by various  
dispensations of his providence but alas,

" I would not hearken to his calls,

" Provoked Him by a thousand falls.

How can I now venture to approach a throne of grace? Dare I again beseech that mercy, I have so long refused?

I cannot describe the anguish of my soul, what shall I do? or whither can I flee? I must again ask his grace, without this I am undone. Love The Spine.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> This evening my soul is drawn out in prayer to God, & I feel encouraged to wrestle with the Lord for pardon & peace. —

July 22<sup>nd</sup> During the last fortnight my mind has been much dissipated, I have sinned against both light & knowledge. Alas! how vain and fruitless are all my resolutions. —

Sept<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> This last month I have been blessed with many privileges, but have enjoyed few. The conference has not proved a great blessing, as I had expected.



Oct. My mind is at this time burthen-  
-ed with sin, I feel what I cannot  
express, I appear to get farther from  
the promised blessing, it makes me trem-  
-ble to reflect, why am I spared, is it  
to fill up the measure of my iniquity,  
and be made ripe for eternal ruin?  
I must conclude, I can write no more.  
Now, if I know not how to describe the  
state of my mind for the last month, I  
pray I durst know, how could I venture  
to ask his grace, who I have so often  
wilfully sinned. but it pleased the  
Lord in tender mercy to look on me, & last  
night I was much drawn out in prayer  
particularly for my Brother who is  
at Cambridge. May the Lord keep him  
from falling into the snare of the ene-  
my.

This morning I have purchased of me-  
-d on these words in Mr Wesley's Sermon  
Vol. 1 Page 136. "And what wilt thou do

"To appease the wrath of God, to atone  
for all thy sins, & to escape the punish-  
-ment thou hast so justly deserved?  
Alas, thou canst do nothing, that will  
in any wise make amends to God, for  
one evil work, word, or thought.  
have I not been seeking salvation,  
by the deed of Law? May I therefore  
see and feel my own nothingness.  
I am Thy

This afternoon, I have been to the  
Covenant-meeting, and although my  
mind was much depressed, and cast  
down, with reflecting on my past un-  
faithfulness, yet was resolved once  
more to surrender myself into the  
hands of God. Most gracious God, ~~and~~  
~~thou art my Father~~ - suffer me not to  
deceive myself, or be fatally a stranger  
to my own spirit.  
Sunday 29 Near a month of this  
new year is gone, but how have I  
lived, for time, or for eternity? alas!  
I have again broken my solemn  
vows, and all my resolutions are  
ruin.



Sep<sup>r</sup> 29 During the last three months  
my mind has been much exercised  
and so unhinged, that I have not had  
either time, or inclination for private  
duties.

Sund Oct 13 The last week has been  
almost entirely lost. I can scarcely  
recollect one day, or even hour in which  
my mind has been drawn heavenward.

Tues<sup>r</sup> 29. I was this morning much  
struck with an account my Father gave  
us, of a French girl, who having put out  
her hip-bone, was instantly cured  
whole, while hearing, the miraculous cures  
which Christ performed while on earth.  
read to her. O God art thou now to day,  
as yesterday the same.

Thurs Nov<sup>y</sup> This afternoon was much  
affected to see Mr Harrop from Hall,  
with whom I met in class when I first  
joined the Society, it is now between  
six and seven years since; and where  
am I now? not a step nearer, but far  
ther from the grace of God.

Sund Dec<sup>r</sup> Last night while  
engaged in prayer with my dear  
friend Miss M. It pleased the Lord  
abundantly to bless us, we were much  
drawn out in prayer, & had great  
confidence, that we should soon be  
brought in to glorious liberty: but  
alas! what a Sabbath is this; we have  
been to the Lords-supper, but I fear we  
have been sealing our own damnation.  
This afternoon I am truly miserable.

Sund 8 Another week of my unhappy  
life is gone, I have now a week more to  
repent-off and a week less to repent in.  
last Thursday I went to renew my life,  
because I could not satisfy my consci-  
ence without.

This morning I heard my Father from  
Matt 17. This is my beloved Son in whom  
I am well pleased; Hear ye Him.  
my desires are a fresh unkindled  
to begin the heavenly race.  
May the Lord strengthen me.



Sund Jan: 5. 1806 -

In the morning Mr Clarke presided  
on the occasion of renewing our  
covenant with God, from the Kings  
ch. 23. v. 3. In the afternoon I went  
to go to the covenant; although conscious  
that I was totally unprepared for such a  
meeting. I cannot in words describe the  
feelings of my heart, what mocking  
of God, to make such solemn vows,  
when I know I cannot perform them.  
My heart is hard, and insensible to  
all good. -

Sund March. 2. I heard my Father  
from. "Enoch walked with God, and  
He was not; for God took him."  
The word was attended with power.  
What reason have I to praise God, for  
my private leges.

Sund June 1<sup>st</sup> I have been much stirred  
up to get out afresh for the kingdom  
of God, throughout the last week.

June 1<sup>st</sup> I have this evening spent  
an hour with my dearest friend.  
we are both sincerely determin-  
ed to serve the Lord. May the God  
of all grace strengthen us.

Thurs 12 Last night my sister Sa-  
bella found peace with God.

I am still living at this poor dy-  
ing rate, though I have long been  
intending to seek this peace.

I do indeed feel my sins a burthen  
too heavy to be born, and am resolved

"I'll never find the sacred road  
I'll perish crying out for God."

Tues June 13<sup>th</sup> 1806 -

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and  
forget not his great benefits.

My harp has long been hung on  
the willow, and I was bordering  
on despair, but my extremity  
was God's opportunity.

My much loved friend, Miss M.  
and I were last evening mutually



in proceeding with God for the witness of his spirit; when it pleased the Lord of his infinite mercy to break our stony hearts, to subdue our stubborn wills, and bring us into subjection to Himself, O the load of guilt, the mountains of unbelief which pressed my soul, I cannot in words express, but the love of Christ constrained me to say, "Though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest me. O God of love take me to thyself, or keep from again grieving thy blessed spirit."

Frid 20. I bless God that I have hitherto been enabled to retain my confidence in his mercy, but weaker than a bruised reed, help I every moment need. I want a deeper baptism of his spirit.

Sat. I feel it good to call on the name of the Lord, praise, O my soul. none need despair, since this grace have found. I am weak,

but Christ has promised to be my strength.

Mon July 4. During the last week I have been much tempted, to cast away all my confidence. my heart is still prone to evil. Lord Jesus enable me, to look unto thee.

Nov. 27.

Since I last wrote my mind has been variously exercised. I have brought myself under condemnation by yielding to unbelief. how justly might the Lord forever hide his face. at present, I have a name to live, but am dead in trespasses, and sins. and it is of Gods mercy, that I am permitted to live.

December 28.

The Lord in mercy, has brought me nearly to the close of another year. How many have, during the last, passed the gulf, and their state is now for ever fixed. I am yet on



my state of trial, for eternity. O!  
how much is contained in <sup>that</sup> word eterni-  
ty. What good have I received at the  
hand of God during the last twelve  
months? What returns have I made?  
How ungrateful for the mercies re-  
ceived! how unfaithful to His grace.  
I think I have less religion, than ever.  
my heart is so prone to unbelief, that  
I can scarce credit any thing. O!  
what reproach does this bring on the  
cause of God. Lord I would believe,  
help thou my unbelief.

May I in the strength of grace, spend  
the few days that yet remain of this  
year, to the glory of my Maker, may I  
be made a true penitent, and a true  
believer. —

Christmas-day —

This morning My Father preached  
at the N.C. from the gospel of St John.  
"And the Word was made flesh, and  
dwelt among us, and we beheld his  
glory, the glory, as of the only begotten

of the Father, full of grace & truth.  
It was an excellent sermon.  
I feel cause for thankfulness, that  
I was enabled to attend, and deri-  
ved both pleasure and profit. —  
1807 Jan th 1 Last night, I went to the  
Watch night, and staid till the end.  
My Father preached from "So teach  
us to number our days, that we  
may apply our hearts unto wisdom."  
It was a solemn time. I feel resol-  
ved, in the strength of grace, to  
spend the present year more to the  
glory of God.

Jan th 22. My good resolutions, on  
the entrance of this year, have  
vanished, before they were even  
reduced into practice. I am yet  
living ungrateful, and unthank-  
ful, to my Almighty Creator,  
my gracious Preserver, my  
merciful Redeemer.  
On Sunday Morning I heard of



Letter from the 1 of Timothy chap.  
th 3. last verse. "And without con-  
troversy great is the mystery  
of godliness; God was mani-  
fest in the flesh, justified in  
the Spirit, seen of angels,  
preached unto the Gentiles,  
believed on in the world, recei-  
ved up into glory.

Portsmouth August 28 1820.

How languid is my gratitude for  
all the mercies I have received since  
I last wrote in this book! How awfully  
deficient have I been in prayer, &  
praise! How apt to distrust that  
kind Being who so graciously cal-  
led me in my youth to seek his face!  
What wondrous love has marked  
the ways of God to me! Why do  
I so stupidly so bewitch my powers?  
Lord have mercy on me, make me  
thankful, that I may love thee.

24 This day, I feel more than ever  
determined not to rest short of  
Holiness, without this I am neither  
fit to live, or to die; I am very uneasy  
about my dear Husband who is  
very poorly, may God be pleased to re-  
store his health, that we may <sup>have</sup> fresh  
reason to magnify his name together.  
I do long to be altogether a Christian.

26 This morning when I awoke the  
Sun shone bright on my bed,  
immediately my soul desired the  
Sun of Righteousness might shine  
on my heart, and scatter all dark-  
ness, and unbelief. — I am more  
than ever convinced of the vanity  
of all in this world; Lord, how  
poor & vile are all the gay modes  
of this world, compared with the  
simplicity & enjoyment of thy  
truth! how beggarly & unsatisfying  
are its vanities! how foolish &  
cheating its hopes! how vain



and unprofitable its cares! how va-  
rious & continual its troubles!  
how wretched & horrible its end!  
O give me Thy wisdom & love, Thy  
grace & truth; for this is the  
better part, which shall never be  
taken from me! —

I thank God that I am favoured with  
seeing an other christian Sabbath; for  
some years I have been prevented from  
attending divine worship by indisposi-  
tion of body, but, blessed be my  
God that I am again enabled by  
his strength to walk to the house  
of God, may I be enabled inward-  
ly to digest what I hear, may it  
bring forth in me every fruit  
of the Holy Spirit. What can  
I render to God for all his mercies.  
Take my poor heart; let it be  
forever closed to all but thee —

Nov<sup>th</sup> 1820 —  
Nov 18

Since my return from Portsmouth, my  
mind has been kept in a state of almost  
constant suspense, and painful anxiety;  
my own health is so much better while I reside  
by the sea-side, that my dear Partner is almost  
resolved on removing from London & settling  
at Portsmouth, but, we each look for divine  
direction in this most important step;  
we have hitherto, always found that direction  
in difficulties, that strength in weakness, that  
support in affliction, that protection in dan-  
gers, which our necessities require; and we  
believe God is still the same, nigh at hand,  
and not afar off waiting to do his meek  
creatures good. my dear, and honored Father  
seems to be in a declining state of health,  
should this continue, we shall give up all  
idea of leaving London, at any rate for the  
present, for I cannot bear the thought of  
leaving my very dear Father. —

My dear children, in succession, have been  
afflicted with the scarlet fever, but, by  
them as a parent, &c. wise, pious, &c.



the kind providence, and watchful care of  
our gracious Benefactor, they have all  
been brought safely through, and are now  
almost well again, save my little John  
who is yet in a very weak state. —  
The Lord deals very graciously with me;  
even the smallest occurrence seems to be  
directed of God. —

Dec<sup>r</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> last

During the fortnight my mind has been  
much exercised respecting my dear Sister  
Whytall who is dreadfully afflicted with  
the Cramp, is also advanced in pregnancy  
so that her state of health is truly alarming.  
I have been to see her, my dear Father tho' extremely  
weak, and unable to go out came, and  
administered the Sacrament to her; it was  
a very solemn time, may the Lord hear &  
answer the very fervent prayers of my dear  
Father on her account. Often has God been  
graciously heard, and returned the most  
convincing answers to the prayers of my dear

John Lamberton  
Father in behalf of his family. —

I have taken a severe cold by going out to see  
my dear Sister, I feel very ill with the cramp  
in my neck, yet I desire to be thankful to  
the Author of all my mercies, that He  
deals not with me according to my sins, nei-  
ther rewards me according to my iniquities.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1821  
my sweet little Darling is very  
ill with a cold, her lungs are much affec-  
ted; I fear and tremble lest the Lord should  
be about to take her from me. merciful  
God grant me with my dear Husband  
that support wh<sup>ch</sup> we stand in need of.

Jan<sup>y</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> This morning about 5 minutes  
past eight, my dear little Lamb left  
this world of sin & sorrow, sweetly to  
rest her little aching head in Abraham's  
bosom; her sufferings now are over; her  
little heart it ceases to flutter, and beats;  
it never shall flutter again. Oh my God  
surely, never, did my soul feel such  
anguish; how does my heart bleed, &  
for grace, submission, patience, resign-  
ment as a parent, & as a friend.



-nation to the Divine will. Lord help  
me, help my dear Partner to acquiesce  
in thy wise & gracious will; only be  
pleased to grant, that, these afflictions  
may answer their end, that, we may not  
suffer the rod in vain, but may be  
thoroughly purged; may we be willing to  
cast off the right hand, or pluck out the  
right eye, so that we may look into  
eternal life. —

Feb 2<sup>d</sup> Being very anxious, and unhappy, about  
my dear Father who, we fear is rapidly going  
to his eternal reward, my dear husband  
has kindly consented to my going to stop  
with him, and relieve my dear sister Sarah  
who is almost worn out with fatigue tho'  
attending to my Father for he is helpless  
as a child tho', through the very great  
mercy & goodness of God in no pain, but  
quite debilitated and helpless. I desire  
to render unto God unfeigned thanks, that  
I am at the present time in so much better

health, as to be able to render a little help to my  
very dear Father; tho' it is heartrending to see  
his extreme weakness, for it is painful to him  
to speak at all, so that he says scarcely  
any thing within to his family, or his friends.  
February 17

Last night my dear and ever venerable  
Father was released from all that could  
burthen his mind. 'Thy languishing head is  
at rest,' its thinking, and aching are over;  
'Thy quiet immovable breast, is heav'd by  
'affliction no more.' By the kind providence  
of our God, we were all (save my dear Isabella  
who is unable to leave home the extreme weak-  
ness) permitted to surround the bed of our  
lying Parent, whose spirit left its clay tem-  
ple about 9 o'clock on the 16<sup>th</sup> of Feb 1821  
it was the most solemn and affecting time  
I have witnessed since the decease of my  
very dear Mother who has now been bur-  
ied eleven years. The Methodist body uni-  
versal have sustained a great loss; but  
his family an irreparable loss, I think few  
few have equalled, none have excelled  
him as a parent, so wise, so dear, so



affectionate. my dear Father was confined  
to his bed only three days, but was in  
a state of extreme weakness for three  
weeks, indeed, his health was declining  
for the last two years. To his children  
this is a very trying Dispensation, yet  
we know the Judge of all the earth  
does right, it is our duty patiently to  
submit, even, to this severe stroke  
of his Almighty rod. I feel very thankful  
to my God, that divine support and con-  
solation has not been withheld from my  
dear Father during his affliction, his mind  
has been generally tranquil and resigned  
to suffer with patience all his Lords will.  
Yesterday the Remains of my dear Father  
Feb the 22 were committed to the earth  
till the resurrection of the flesh, when  
he with my dear Mother, and all who  
have died in the faith, will rise with  
glorified bodies. May God enable me  
together with my In the band, & Brothers & Sis  
to follow our dear parents so far as

they have followed Christ, that we  
also being made perfect through suf-  
fering may reap an eternal reward.  
Lord help me not to number my days  
as to apply my heart unto wisdom.  
May I be always enabled to leave the things  
that are behind, and press forward to the  
mark for the prize of my high calling  
in Christ Jesus. I feel very anxious, that  
as often as we may continue to be united in  
sincere affection, promoting each others spi-  
ritual & temporal welfare in all things.  
May the God of our Parents, be our refuge  
and rock of defence, while we are passing  
the various disappointments trials &  
vexations of this transitory state. that  
we may here after spend an eternity of  
happiness with them, On (an ams happy  
shore then

March 2 1821 This morning Mr Bunting preached  
a sermon on the occasion of the death of my  
Father, to a very large congregation, from  
We are baptized for the dead. &c.  
May the God



My mind was too much overwhelmed with the  
mournful scene to be much profited by the  
discourse; his character of my Father was  
just, as far as it went, but his truly  
valuable labours, and most faithful & try-  
ing useful ministry was very far undemi-  
nated; I have never heard or read of his equal  
in persevering self-denial, and conscientious  
integrity of intention. —

Sund, 4<sup>th</sup> I desire to be thankful to God, for  
another opportunity of waiting on God in his  
house of prayer; Mr. Sturges preached from  
The Lord is at hand; Be careful for nothing  
but by prayer & supplication with thanksgiving  
make your requests known to God &c.  
I thank God for any degree of tranquillity &  
peace of mind, considering the distressing  
and painful bereavements we have lately  
sustained; The Lord has indeed been nigh  
at hand to support and comfort us all in  
this time of sore trouble. I think, I never felt  
more wearied from this world, & wouldly ob-  
jects. O that I may take care to be ready, for  
I may be the next called to receive my wages  
trusting down. Lord bless me. —

Sept 16, 1821 Since I last wrote my  
bodily health & strength has gradually  
declined partly I believe thro anxiety  
& perplexity of mind, for I feel I have  
not yet learned that lesson, be care-  
ful for nothing but in every thing by  
prayer & supplication with thanks, to  
make your requests known to God.  
Hitherto this has been a year of ~~very~~  
~~very remarkable events~~, and pecu-  
liar family trials; what the Lord is  
about to do with me, I know not, but  
still, sometimes hope God, in his infi-  
nite mercy, will not lay more upon  
me, than He will enable me to bear.  
for I think, if I am at all able to judge  
my own heart, I sincerely desire to  
know the will of God, that I may do it.  
We believe we are in the order of God's  
Providence, called to leave our native  
land, our friends, our kindred; this  
is to me a sore trial, but, I feel, it is  
my duty to submit. May the God



of my dear departed Parents, still  
continue to direct, support and  
strengthen us, be our light, wis-  
dom, righteousness & sanctifica-  
tion, & redemption, now, and for-  
ever more —

Sunday Dec<sup>r</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1821 - Tomorrow we shall  
have been five weeks detained in Ham-  
psgate Harbour; The Ship Hope in which we  
sailed is detained by the Government  
on account of the overplus of Passengers,  
by a gracious & ever watchful Providence we  
were preserved from the merciless waves,  
tho' in the most imminent danger, and  
even within a fables length of our vessel;  
several other Ships sunk, and all on board  
perished; yet, that God who rides upon  
the storm, & calms the roaring sea, did  
not suffer us to fall a prey to the raging  
element. we have still more abun-  
dant cause for thankfulness and fresh  
encouragement to continue our trust in  
our Almighty Rescuer. —

I have suffered much from sea sickness,  
and also the want of necessary food, on  
board this Ship, we are totally deceived  
in the Owners, they are the most infam-  
ous Villains that I ever heard of, but  
we hope God will avenge the cause of  
the upright; my dear Husband has kindly  
got me two Rooms on Shore in Hampsgate  
He, and the dear children, still remaining on  
board and take what fare they can meet with.  
Our path is at the present completely  
hedge'd up; merciful God we look to thee  
to be our Way, Truth, and Light; I am  
indeed very weak, and much distressed  
by my old Complaint in my stomach.  
Divine Physician heal my poor afflicted  
dying frame, that I may be enabled to  
honour thee with my body and soul which  
are thine; I do long to be entirely de-  
voted to the service of my God. —



29 this morning on examining my own heart I think I can adopt the language of the Psalmist, and say, "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for there art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day." I do not desire to do mine own will, but to know, and do the will of God if I am not sincere, Lord shew me the deceitfulness of my heart. Suffer me not to be deceived in matters that concern my spiritual and eternal welfare.

30 Mr M with my dear Sarah returning home to the Ship, my dear girl had a very narrow escape from falling off the Keel; Thanks be unto our merciful Preserver, who is at all times watching over us by his kind providence: may we shew our gratitude, by continuing to trust in Him for all things.

January. 1822.

Blessed be my God who continues to supply my wants -

this morning while sitting at my breakfast, along with my dear Sarah (who is with me for company.) I felt sorely distressed, having only a few shillings remaining, and not knowing how I could get more. munitating on my woe full plight, where could I look for subsistence. Just at this moment I received a letter from my brother John, inclosing a bank note for the supply of my present necessities, also proposing to take one or two of the boys and I intrust them for me. this seemed to me to come immediately from heaven. The Lord hearing my necessities and provided for them. can I even prove so ungrateful as to forget this singular interference of his providential love and care over me. - another friend also sent me some to him of her love



October <sup>th</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1830 -

The Almighty still continues his mercies to me - my health seems to be gradually returning - although I feel naturally desirous to be restored - yet I can truly say it is in humble submission to the will of God - if it will be for his glory, and the present and eternal welfare of my family - at the present - my soul longs for the salvation of God. I want a constant assurance of the divine favour, to feel his spirit constantly bearing witness with my spirit that I am born of God, that my name is written in the Lamb's book of life - I feel myself to be the chief of sinners - my only hope is, that Jesus died for me - Lord enable me to cast myself, with all my burden of sin at the foot of the cross, and wait patiently for his salvation.

July the 11<sup>th</sup> 1831 -

This is the birth day of my son John - I have sent him to school to Mr Lindley for twelve months - may the blessing of God be upon my dear boy and attend his endeavours to improve in his learning - Some difference having occurred this day between my dear husband and my son Robt - my mind has been most severe ly tried, I think more so than I ever remember to be before - if ever I had need of divine direction I now have. I see no way of escape, but, by prayer and supplication, to ask heavenly wisdom - peace and harmony has hitherto blessed our dwelling; but discord having entered I tremble lest my future path be strewn with thorns - Lord in much misery remember



thine handmaid; teach me thy will  
and give me grace to act according to  
the precepts of thy holy word. Thou  
knowest the most secret desire of  
my soul is, to fulfil my duty to  
my Master, also to train up my  
children in the road to holiness  
and happiness, so that by fearing  
God and working righteousness  
they may be able to glorify their  
Maker by enlightening all around  
them.

July 24<sup>th</sup> This week I been highly  
favoured, we have been visited by  
our Missionary, Mr. Hutchins on  
both his body and soul are devo-  
ted to the interest of his blessed  
Master he seems to be a man of  
faith and prayer. may the work  
of God prosper in his hands. -  
my frail weak body often depresses  
my spirits, yet, I do earnestly aspire  
after the mind of Christ Jesus

July 31<sup>st</sup> This afternoon we have  
heard that our boat has sunk  
and three men in her. how mys-  
terious are the ways of Gods last  
December two of our men were  
lost in the boat. Lord, we desire  
humbly to submit to thy will -  
O that we may be taught those  
divine lessons these awful provi-  
dences are intended to teach us.  
my body is so weak and my spirit  
so depressed with various pains, and  
constant anxieties, that I feel it  
difficult to wait on the Lord  
without distraction; reflecting  
on my past life, I see that I have  
always been lukewarm in religion  
and I fear, that, I shall at the last  
be of the number of those who  
say Lord, Lord, but do not the  
will of their heavenly Father.  
all my sicknesses, diseases, and  
amazing providences seem to  
upon me - O that I could live the  
life of prayer and faith, firmly  
and constantly relying on Christ Jesus  
as my Saviour



When pain o'er our weak flesh prevails, 'tis ~~more~~  
sweet to trust in Jesus, it soothes our woe, it alle-  
viates our sorrows, it tranquillizes the mind. -

May the 6 1829 - During the last ten weeks, I have been  
living at the Farm, and by the blessing of God on the  
means, I am so far restored to health, that, on this day,  
(for the first time, since I left England) I have been to  
the Methodist Chapel in this Town, where I heard Mr  
Parsons preach - He is a faithful servant of Christ  
distributing the whole truth to his hearers, but speaks  
much too loud for the size of the Chapel - though  
much fatigued by the exertion, yet my soul was mel-  
ted with gratitude to my God for again enabling me to  
attend in his house of prayer - blessed be my rock,  
who has always been better to me than all my friends



August 17<sup>th</sup> My dear Joseph has  
come from Town to see me, thank  
God for preserving him in health  
and permitting us to meet  
again. O for wisdom, and grace  
to direct their path in life  
and prevent them from the  
vices of their age - Most  
blessed God rather lay af-  
fliction on their bodies, than  
suffer them to wear Satan's  
yoke, and stain their reputa-  
tion by regarding iniquity in  
their hearts, or countenancing  
the sin of their fellow creatures  
often do I tremble, lest I should  
neglect any part of my duty  
to them either by precept or  
example, and their souls  
be required at my hand  
I feel that I need a fresh sup-  
ply of grace every moment  
Lord help me



Today the last has been a  
week of much bodily suffer-  
ing. I think I have felt more  
impatient, especially with my  
cough, my heart condemns  
me - God knoweth all things  
and is full of compassion  
and long suffering towards  
me and my sinful woman -

21<sup>th</sup> This I feel even my life a  
burden. my body is so weak,  
and my mind oppressed with  
numerous fears respecting my  
eternal welfare; I frequently  
yield with tempers, thoughts,  
vain anxieties and reasonings.  
How inconsistent with the char-  
-acter of a Christian! I fear  
that until the present moment  
I continue a stranger to in-  
ward holiness, to vital godliness



September 8 1829 -

This morning, I awoke with these words on my tongue 'Dangers stand thick thro' all the ground, to push us to the tomb; and fierce diseases wait around to hurry mortals home.' of late I have been constantly led to pray that I may be prepared for whatever the Lord hath prepared for me, some temptation distress me; the fear of death that hath to men; O for a watchful praying spirit to enable me to overcome my spiritual enemies. -

<sup>th</sup> 10 On reading the hundredth and seventh Ps my soul was refreshed and comforted; and during the day, I have been led to meditate on the manifold providences and mercies of the Allowing God to me the most unworthy of his creatures. -

<sup>th</sup> 11 My mind is harassed about my dear friends being obliged to live separate from them - I dread the sorrows and temptations to which they may be exposed - my prayer is that rather, they may be removed out of time into eternity, than have to be a reproach to society and a curse to the cause of God. yet I have no other re-



huge, but, to every ~~word~~ to the Lord ~~unto~~ in my  
prayer, that He may deliver me out of  
all my distresses. —

Sept 18 I am in extreme pain, my spirits  
are low, and my body much debilitated; I  
fear, that I encourage a spirit of murmuring  
and repining at my situation. — O my blessed  
Saviour, thou knowest my heart, every thought  
affection and desire, that riseth within  
me; have I been brought into the way of truth  
am I raised from a death in sin to a life  
of righteousness? is it the predominate  
desire of my soul to glorify my Maker?  
blessed Jesus lead me in the paths of wisdom  
and righteousness, draw me, and I will run after  
thee. —

16 This day I feel a degree of impatience  
on account of my afflictions; when shall  
I learn humble resignation to the divine  
will; blessed Jesus impart unto me this  
inestimable treasure. —

17 Last night I felt a spirit of inter-  
ceding prayer. felt desirous to continue  
me wrestling with the Lord for a  
clear manifestation of his love; but  
my poor feeble frame grew sick and so  
weary that I was obliged to go to bed. O for

grace to watch against the first rise  
of sin, to keep my heart with all dili-  
gence. —

18 Lord be thou my comfort in my  
affliction; cause me to hope in thy  
word; may I never forget thy former lov-  
ing kindnesses and tender mercies. —

24 For the last few days, a painful stupor  
and inactivity of mind has prevented  
me from enjoying that communion with  
my God, which is my souls delight. —  
if I know any thing of my own heart, it  
is my sincere desire to become a liv-  
ing branch in the true vine that I may  
bear fruit to his glory. —

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> During the last fortnight my  
mind has been much perplexed  
about a variety of worldly concerns; I find  
that I have not yet learned to be con-  
tent for nothing, but trust in the Almighty  
for a supply of temporal as well as  
spiritual wants. —

27 a variety of circumstances agitate  
my mind relating to my own family;  
long for a truly pious friend, whose  
communion is a great help in our  
warfare. I am surrounded with difficul-  
ties, and can see no way of escape. Lord direct  
my feet into the way of holiness. —



November the 13 I overcome the beam of religion, and feel in me ardent desires to be continually dedicated to the service of my God; to stand to walk continually in the liberty of God's children; to enjoy at all time his peace and love.

September 19 1830

Being sorely distressed with a particular bodily weakness for the last eighteen years - during the last fortnight I have been led constantly to intercede with the Almighty to heal me of this infirmity; as when on earth, He healed the woman who ventured to touch the hem of his garment and the fountain of his blood was directed up - I continued to pray in this manner endeavoring to be resigned to the will of God, knowing that He is too wise to ever be too good to prove unkind; in the morning was as usual in pain and misery - but during the day felt that I was healed - now this must have been the Lord's doing, as I had used no outward means what were.

1830 -

June 29 - This day being my birth day - I have been led to reflect on the Lord's gracious dealings with me during the past year, and feel cause for deep humiliation before my Maker, although I have been sorely afflicted in body; yet my strength has at all times been proportioned to my day, may I have received many manifest proofs of his tender care over me. at the present time, I think, I can appeal to the searcher of hearts, that it is my sincere desire that every moment of my future life may show forth his praise, and proclaim this glory -  
The last night being in extreme pain, and quite alone, I felt much agitated in my mind, fearing lest I was unprepared for my awful change.



I know it is my privilege to  
have constantly an abiding sense  
of love of God, and a consci-  
ousness of his protecting care  
over me. merciful God pardon  
my past unfaithfulness.  
4<sup>th</sup> This Day, from the account  
my dear Husband has given  
me of my dear boys, I feel en-  
couraged to hope that the Lord  
is graciously working on their  
minds in inclining them to  
love his ordinances. I often fear  
that I have been remiss in  
warning, reproving, and exhort-  
ing them - what a useless crew  
- have I had I wish to be seen.  
July 15 1830 -

The last sixteen months, I have  
been troubled with a cough which  
much agitates my poor weak frame.

July 18<sup>th</sup> 1830 Since I last wrote,  
my mind has been more drawn to  
heavenly things; if I know any thing  
of my own heart, my sincere de-  
sire is that the will of God  
may be done in me, and by me.  
23<sup>rd</sup> This <sup>day</sup> my body is so weak,  
and my lungs so distressing, that  
my spirits are also much de-  
pressed. I feel that I am ungrateful  
for the innumerable mercies with  
which I am surrounded, and dwell on  
my inward and outward ex-  
ercises, instead of looking unto  
Jesus for support; for patience  
and a holy resignation to the divine  
will. Pious and safe, I beseech thee, ever-  
blessed God, to subdue my rebel-  
lious will, that I may be able to  
submit without murmuring.  
24<sup>th</sup> my mind is more drawn to  
prayer, most adorable Jesus,  
communicate to me thy spirit.



of love and resignation; make  
me think less of my sufferings;  
help me to love thee with my  
whole heart; hither to thou hast  
proportioned my strength to my  
days; then why should I doubt  
how treacherous, and faithless is  
my heart —

29 Outward things, a variety of  
unpleasant family occurrences  
have occupied, far too much of my  
attention. my heart is not yet  
weaned from earthly toys. —  
I am often painfully exercised  
with respect to my dear chil-  
dren, lest any means, or any  
duty should be neglected by  
me to further their present and  
eternal welfare — merciful  
Jehovah teach my ignorance, —  
help my weakness. —

29 I feel that I have indulged  
an impatient and murmuring  
spirit; oftentimes, when my  
cough is troublesome, anger  
vises. what an ungrateful crea-  
ture! was it not, that the Lord  
is merciful, slow to anger, and  
full of compassion. I should  
long ere this, have been consigned  
to everlasting misery. —

August Since I last wrote, I have  
the 3 1830,  
been distressed with rheuma-  
tic pain in my head, which, to-  
gether with my cough, and other  
weaknesses have much exer-  
cised my patience — corporeal  
afflictions, are my greatest  
trials. I feel little anxiety about  
worldly gains, or earthly prosper-  
ity; the Lord knoweth what we  
need, and hither to hath provided  
for us the necessities of  
life.



I desire to be unforgotten by thank-  
ful to my heavenly Father for  
his great bounties, and daily  
prayer for a continuance of his  
mercies, and though unworthy  
of any, even the least favor, yet  
I am loaded with his benefits.

Aug 4 Considering, the very great  
advantages I have had, having  
been from my infancy trained  
up in the fear of the Lord, I feel  
reason for deep humiliation before  
my Maker. I am still looking at  
my self, instead of looking unto  
Jesus as my example, that I may  
learn of him to be meek and low-  
ly in heart. I am still irritable,  
impatient, peevish. my desires  
are still low and groveling -  
when shall I be able to rise  
superior to this selfish desire  
of pleasing myself -

Aug 6 Yesterday feeling much  
sorrow and debility, my spirits  
were much depressed and  
my mind agitated with a va-  
riety of fears: today, feeling a  
little better, I feel ashamed of  
my want of confidence in that  
gracious benefactor who hath  
never suffered me to lack  
any good thing, but hath al-  
ways been better to me than  
all my fears - if I know <sup>anything</sup>  
of my own heart, my constant  
desire is avoid every thing sin-  
ful, either in its nature, or ten-  
dency, and to be guided by the  
straightly into the path of duty  
and of holiness - yet, I am con-  
scious that I deprive myself  
of much blessed enjoyment by  
looking at my own short coming  
instead of depending on the  
merits of Jesus.



1830  
Aug 9 Last night, my Dear  
Husband, reading a sermon  
more on the necessity of watch-  
ing, lest when the Lord comes  
he should find us sleeping;  
examining my self as he  
proceeded, my conscience ac-  
cused me of much unfaith-  
fulness to the grace of God;  
blessed be God that the funnel  
of sin still remains open for  
sin and uncleanness. what  
can I do, but again apply at  
the footstool of mercy, for  
pardon and reconciliation,  
for renovation of heart, that  
my life hence forth may  
show his praise.

Aug 13 For the last two days,  
my mind has been unhinged  
by outward things - how un-

stable is my heart - tossed about  
with <sup>day</sup> every wind. I feel that I  
every need fresh pardon; Lord  
increase in me, such an hunger  
and thirst for a deep acquain-  
tance with divine things, that  
my heart may be established,  
strengthened and settled with  
thy love. give me a deeper sense  
of my own unworthiness; more  
humility; more constant resig-  
nation to thy most blessed  
will. I long to know assuredly  
that my treasure and my heart  
is in heaven, and that when this  
decaying tenement is dissolved, I have  
an inheritance in that blessed  
region of eternal felicity.

Aug 16 I fear, that I am still de-  
pendent on my own righteousness  
I certainly feel myself to be the  
chief of sinners, yet I am seek-  
ing and striving in my own  
strength. —



Aug 29<sup>th</sup> - The last two days  
I have been so ill, that, I have  
been unable to raise my head from  
my pillow - and my heart has  
been so cold and senseless, that  
I was quite indifferent to all  
things save my own individual  
sufferings; to day being reliev-  
ed considerably from the pain  
in my head, I feel ashamed of  
my supineness, and sincerely de-  
sire to come to the blood of  
sprinkling that my soul may  
be renewed in righteousness,  
and true holiness. —

Sep the 1<sup>st</sup> 1830

This day my beloved Sarah  
is eighteen; from this time, I  
date the origin of all my bo-  
dily afflictions. I took cold  
in my first lying in from the  
carelessness of the nurse;  
since, which time, I have

never had any continued health  
or ease from pain or sickness,  
and for the most part have  
been unable to attend to the  
duties of my family. Yet thanks  
to my ever blessed Redeemer  
who hath at all times been bet-  
ter to me, than all my fears: who  
hath been my strength, support,  
and very present help in every  
time of extremity. - what reason  
have I for deep humiliation on  
account of my unfaithfulness  
and unfruitfulness. blessed be  
God that the fountain for sin  
still remains open. I cast  
myself on his infinite mer-  
cy in Christ Jesus, and con-  
stantly cry that my soul may  
be renewed in righteousness,  
and true holiness. —



Sep. 24<sup>th</sup> Bless the Lord O my  
soul, and all that is with  
in me praise His Holy Name,  
I am generally enabled to cast  
all my care on the Lord; my  
sufferings, the knoweth, and  
pitieth my infirmities; none  
ever trusted in Him and were  
confounded - I long to be made  
altogether a Christian, having  
constantly the testimony of  
my conscience that I aim at  
the glory of my God in all  
my thoughts, words, or actions  
to have His Spirit at all times  
bearing witness with mine,  
that my God is my reconciling  
Father in Christ-Jesus. I do  
believe the second true-  
God to me his Son hath given  
and, that it is my privilege  
to live <sup>sense of his favor</sup> under an abiding